A

NARRATIVE

OF A

SINGULAR GOUTY CASE:

WITH

OBSERVATIONS.

BY

JOHN LEE, *M. D.*

PHYSICIAN AT BATH,
MEMBER OF THE COLLEGE OF
PHYSICIANS IN LONDON,
AND
FELLOW OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR,

And Sold by T. Evans, N° 50, in the Strand; J. Sewell, in Cornhill; and J. D. Debrett, oppoſite Burlington-Houſe, Piccadilly. Alſo by Pratt and Clinch, at Bath.

M DCC LXXXII.

(PRICE ONE SHILLING.)

WELLCOME
LIBRARY

TO THE

PRESIDENT AND CENSORS

OF THE

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS

IN LONDON.

GENTLEMEN,

I THINK it incumbent on me to preſent the following Sheets to You; as being the Firſt that I ſent to the Preſs, ſince you were pleaſed to honor me with the College *Diploma*. I have been exact and candid in ſetting down every Circumſtance, which I deem'd material and worthy of Obſervation; in this very

very remarkable *Caſe*; which comprehends a Period of Seven Years, viz. from the Year 1774 to 1781. If You, who are competent Judges of the Utility, which the following *Narrative* might be of; eſpecially to young Practitioners, will favor it with your Sanction; others, I flatter myſelf, will receive it well. Another Motive alſo has induced me to addreſs it to You, and that is, to aſſure You that I am,

GENTLEMEN,

Your much obliged,

And humble Servant,

JOHN LEE.

BATH,
Feb. 20, 1782.

A

NARRATIVE

OF A

SINGULAR GOUTY CASE.

AMONG the many Inſtances, recorded in the Hiſtory of Medicine, of the dangerous Symptoms which happen in conſequence of *interrupting Nature* in her Operations, there is not one (in my Opinion) in which more extraordinary *Effects* have been produced, than in the preſent; and which might throw an additional Light in the Treatment of GOUTY Diſorders.

A Mr.

Mr. M. aged Sixty-eight Years, of a ſtrong Conſtitution, had been ſubject to the *Gout* during Eighteen or Twenty Years, ſo much as to have been laid up Two or Three Times every Year; each *Fit* generally laſting a Fortnight or Three Weeks; was adviſed by a Gentleman of his Acquaintance (who was not of the Faculty) to take Pills compoſed of *Gum Guaiacum*, *Salt of Amber*, *Germander*, *Ground Pine*, and *Chio Turpentine*: (This Compoſition is ſomewhat ſimilar to Bate's Pilulæ Antipodagricæ:) He continued the Uſe of theſe Pills every other Month during Two Years; all which Time he never had the leaſt Symptom of *Gout*, and ſeemed to enjoy perfect Health; when moſt unexpectedly, and all of a ſudden, on the 6th of May 1774, he was ſeized with a violent

violent *Strangury*, accompanied with a Fever; for which he was blooded, uſed tepid Baths; by the Help of theſe, and ſome Boluſes of Sper. Cet. Nitr. Gum. Ar. and Soap, together with Emulſions, he recovered in the Courſe of a Week. In ſome Time after his Recovery, he obſerved, to his great Surprize, every Morning in the *Urine* which he made the preceding Night, a great Quantity of *Sediment*, of the *Conſiſtence* of Glue (diſſolved in Water); its *Colour* approached that of a Pea-green, and it emitted a moſt offenſive *Smell*; the Quantity of it was generally a *Half Pint* in Three Pints of Urine: This alarmed the Patient very much, and induced him to conſult ſome Gentlemen of the Faculty; who imagined the Diſorder to be an *Ulcer* in the Bladder:

By thoſe Gentlemens' Advice, he *injected* every Day a Decoction of the *Traumatic Herbs*, ſuch as Agrimony, Plantain, Yarrow, &c. and took inwardly an Infuſion of the Bark made on Lime Water.

Theſe Medicines ſoon *checked* the Diſcharge, and at length totally *ſuppreſſed* it; the Conſequence of which was near being *fatal* to the Patient; for on the Sediment's having been *ſtopped*, he loſt his Appetite; he complained of a Head-ach, and wandering *gouty* Pains all over him; he at length laboured under a ſlow Fever, and his Feet and Ancles began to *ſwell*, and pit on being preſſed with the Finger. After having taken ſome Medicines for theſe Complaints, which partly removed them, he was ordered to go to the South of France.

France. In his Way thither, he ſojourned ſome Time at Paris, and conſulted ſome Phyſicians there, who adviſed him to bathe, and drink the Waters of *Bareges*, a Village remarkable on account of its *Waters*, and its romantic *Situation* in the Pyrenean Mountains. He arrived here in the Month of May, and remained ſix Weeks, but did not receive much Benefit.

On his Return to Paris, being then very ill, and no Sediment appearing in his Urine, the Patient took Pills compoſed of *Soap*, *Rhubarb*, *Martial Flowers*, *Aſſa-fœtida*, *Gum Ammoniac*, and *Extract of Wormwood*: He continued theſe Pills a Fortnight, and after each Doſe took a Draught of the Infuſion of *Juniper Berries*, in which Half a Drachm of the *Terr. foliat.*

foliat. Tartar. had been diſſolved. The Patient was much *better* after having taken theſe Medicines; his Appetite was conſiderably mended, he recovered his Strength apace, and the *Sediment* in the Urine made its Appearance again, which had been locked up (as the Patient term'd it) during ſeveral Months. Its *Quantity*, *Conſiſtence*, *Colour*, and *Smell*, were much the ſame as at the Time it firſt appeared; which was Fifteen or Eighteen Months before, viz. in a ſhort Time after he got well of the Strangury.

During Six Weeks the Patient continued well, all which Time the Sediment came down, and did not weaken him; a Circumſtance which is *worthy of Obſervation*, and which he dreaded very much.

much. He then, on being out at Night later than uſual, caught cold; the Conſequences of which were, a Fever, a Cough, and a Suppreſſion of the *Sediment*: And now a Train of Symptoms, ſuch as he formerly laboured under, attacked him, viz. wandering Pains in his Ancles, Knees, Wriſts, nay ſometimes in his Bowels; this laſt Symptom was ſoon followed by the Bleeding Piles, which afforded him great Relief, and continued Three Days without Interruption: On their ſtopping, he had an univerſal Tremor, a Loſs of Appetite, vomited the lighteſt Food, and had a ſlow Fever; what little Sleep he got, was for the moſt Part interrupted, and his Pulſe at Times intermitted: In this dangerous Situation he continued ſeveral Days: At length, with

the

the Help of proper Medicines, and by the Application of Sinapiſms to the Feet, he got a ſevere, tho' *fortunate* Fit of the *Gout* in both his Ancles, which continued Three Weeks. Here I beg Leave to obſerve, that I attribute his Recovery to the Medicines he had taken, which brought on the Gout: The Medicines preſcribed were, *Gum Guaiac. Muſk*, *Native Cinnabar*, and *Opium*. The following is the *Formula* which I ordered:

N° I.

℞ Gum. Guaiac. ℈j.
Moſch. gr. xij.
Cinnab. Nativ. gr. xx.
Extract. Thebaic. gr. j.
Syr. Simpl. q. ſ. Miſce, f. pil. iij.
Capiat Æger pil. j. Sexta quaque Hora.

The

The Patient took Three Spoonfuls of the Muſk Julep after each Pill. In a ſhort Time after he had taken the Third Pill, the Tremors ſubſided, his Bowels were eaſier, the Fever quitted him; he got ſome ſound Sleep, which relieved him greatly; and now he began to perceive great *Pains* in his *Ancles*. Doubtleſs, the Sinapiſms acted as good Auxiliary Troops; but *once ſince* the Patient labouring under the *ſame Symptoms*, I found that the *above Pills* anſwered the ſame End *without* the Sinapiſms. What merits our particular Attention here, and what proves the wonderful Efforts of Nature, is, that in the Decline of this Fit, the *ſlimy Sediment* in the Urine *appeared* in Proportion as the *Gout* went off. This is a *Circumſtance* worthy of Obſervation. Having

recovered, he continued to enjoy good Health for Ten Months; during all this Time the mucous Sediment came down: At the End of Ten Months, or thereabouts, he dined at an Acquaintance's Houſe with a numerous Company, where he indulged himſelf in Eating and Drinking too much: On his Arrival at his own Houſe, he complained of a great *Sickneſs* and Load in his *Stomach*, a *Head-ach*, and he had a *Shivering Fit*; the *Sediment* being now ſtopped, he continued very ill during a Fortnight. Having got ſomewhat better of theſe Complaints, he was adviſed to go to *Spa*, where he remained a Month; during the firſt Week he drank the *Pohun* Water, which did not agree with him; he then tried the *Geronſter*, from which he received ſome Service.

On

On his Way to Paris, (where he had determined to paſs the enſuing Winter) he bathed and drank the Waters at *Aix-la-Chapelle*, where he continued Three Weeks. He *drank* the Water every Morning, *bathed* every other Morning, and took Three of the following *Pills* every Night at Bed-time. Theſe Pills had done him *great Service* at Two different Times before.

N° II.

℞ Rhei Elect. — ʒj
Gum. Ammon. ʒjſs
Sapon. Caſtil. — ʒij
Flor. Mart. — ʒj
Aſſ. fœtid. — ʒjſs
Syr. e Cort. Aurant. q. ſ. Miſce f. Maſſa.
Pil. Singul. Pil. gr. iv.

The Patient received conſiderable *Benefit* from theſe *Pills*, and the Waters of *Aix-la-Chapelle*; and now the *Sediment* in the Urine (which had been *ſuppreſſed* ſeveral Months) began to make its *Appearance*; he therefore finding himſelf much better, proceeded on his Journey to Paris, where he arrived in the Beginning of November 1776, and enjoyed tolerable good Health until the latter End of January 1777; when, on *catching Cold*, a Fever enſued, the *Sediment* was entirely *ſuppreſſed*, and an *Iſſue* which he had in his Arm during many Years, was totally dried up: This was generally the Caſe, whenever he had a Fever, tho' e'er ſo little. Here I beg Leave to deliver *my Sentiments*, which were *then* the *ſame* as at *preſent*, (tho' contrary to the Patient's, as well as ſome

of

of the Faculty) viz. that the *Suppreſſion* of the *Sediment*, and the *Diſcharge* of the *Iſſue*, were the *Effects* of the Fever, and not its *Cauſes*; and in this Dr. Bouvar, Dr. Macmahon, and my learned and celebrated Profeſſor, Dr. Petit, Phyſicians at Paris, *coincided* with me in *Opinion*. The Patient being recovered from this Diſorder, with which he lay dangerouſly ill during Seventeen Days, began to *believe* and to be *perſuaded* of what I had *very often* before told him, viz. that the *ſlimy Sediment* which *appeared in his Urine*, did not proceed from an *Ulcer* in his *Bladder*; but that *Part* being *weak*, Nature (happily for him) *threw* off the *Gouty Humour* that Way; and beſides, I aſſured him that he would enjoy good Health whilſt the Sediment came down; this was literally

true,

true, as he afterwards found by Experience, for he was never *better* than when the *Sediment appeared.* From this Time, the Patient was ſatisfied to promote this *ſalutary Diſcharge*, and never after ſignified the leaſt Deſire to have it ſtopped, as he no longer entertained an Idea of its proceeding from an *Ulcer*.

Whenever this Humour happened to be *ſuppreſſed*, or even *diminiſhed*, (which was frequently the Caſe on his catching Cold, or eating or drinking improper Things) he laboured under a *Lowneſs of Spirits*, *Loſs of Appetite*, *ſwelled Legs*, or the *Gout*; and he uſed to ſay, that all theſe Symptoms proceeded from the *Sediment's* having *gone aſtray* (as he termed it): On the Return of which, all and every

one

one of the above Symptoms *vaniſhed*, and the Patient recovered his uſual State of Health.

He continued well until the Commencement of September 1777, being then in the 73d Year of his Age: He got wet in his Feet by walking in marſhy Ground, the Weather being rainy; when he came Home, he immediately went to Bed, complaining of a Head-ach, and a violent Pain in his right *Teſticle*. On my viſiting him the next Morning, I found him very ill, having a Fever, a Head-ach, Sickneſs at Stomach, and on Enquiry found his *Teſticle* prodigiouſly *ſwoln*, and his Pulſe beat Ninety-eight in a Minute; however, by keeping his Body open, by the Application of proper Poultices

tices and Cataplaſms, with the Aſſiſtance of the Aperient Nervous Pills, N° II. and by his diluting plentifully with a gentle *diuretic Ptiſan*, in each Quart of which a Drachm of the *Terr. foliat. Tartar.* had been diſſolved, he recovered in the Courſe of Three Weeks; and in *Proportion* as the ſlimy *Sediment appeared* in the Urine, the *Teſticle diminiſhed.*

Having recovered from this dangerous Situation, he went to London, where he enjoyed tolerable Health until the Commencement of November 1777. Having ſome Buſineſs in the City, he walked a great deal, from one Place to another; the Weather being then remarkable hazy and damp, he got wet in his Feet, and came home with a *Shivering Fit*, and took

took to his Bed: He paſſed a very uneaſy Night. The following Morning, being the Ninth of November, he complained of a great Head-ach, an Oppreſſion, and a violent Pain in the *Regio Epigaſtrica*; the Abdomen was ſwoln, he had a high Fever, and at Times his Pulſe *intermitted*. The *Sediment* being now totally *ſuppreſſed*, and the Patient being far advanced in Years, and weakened very much by repeated Diſorders, I began to fear for his Life; I therefore propoſed to his Relations to have a *Conſultation*, which they agreed to. Accordingly, Dr. Heberden, and my worthy Friend, the late Dr. Petit, were ſent for, and requeſted to attend at Six o'Clock in the Evening: They came at the Time appointed, and after having viſited the Patient, we preſcribed Turpen-

tine Clyſters, and Saline Draughts; to each Draught were added ℈j. of Sper. Cet. and ʒjſs. of the Tinc. V. Guaiac. with as much Tinct. Fuligin. to be taken immediately, and repeated every Six Hours. The next Morning, the 10th of November, he was ſomewhat *better*; the Fever was leſs, his Reſpiration eaſier, and his Body was open. The ſame Medicines were *continued*. The following Morning, being the 11th, we found him worſe, having been reſtleſs the preceding Night; complained of violent Pains in his Bowels; the Abdomen was ſwelled; and he had been at Times *delirious*. We now ordered him a Purging Draught, with Tinct. Sena, Tinct. Sacr. and the Tinct. Vol. Guaiac. The Saline Draughts were continued every Six Hours, without the Tinct.

Tinct. Guaiac. In the Courſe of the Evening of that Day he had Four or Five Stools; and the Day following he complained of the Piles, which towards Night emitted a great Quantity of Blood: This Evacuation continued during Three or Four Days, and relieved him very much. This, doubtleſs, contributed greatly towards his Recovery; however, not being able to take much Nouriſhment, he remained very weak during Three Weeks or a Month.

When the Patient was in a Condition to travel, we adviſed him to go to Bath, to bathe and drink the Waters: This was the *dernière Reſource*, and which bid faireſt to be of Service to a Gentleman, who had ſeen full *Fifteen Luſtres*, and who devoted

moſt of them to the Service of *Venus* as well as *Bacchus*. He left London on the 8th of January, and arrived in Bath the 11th. After being prepared, he began by drinking the *Croſs Bath* Water, which did not agree with him; on this Account he drank the Water at the *King's Bath* the following Morning, which *ſat eaſy* on his Stomach, and *paſſed* off freely. He continued to take Three ſmall Glaſſes every Morning before Breakfaſt, at Half an Hour's *Interval* between each Glaſs: Whenever the Patient happened to drink a Fourth Glaſs, which he did Two or Three Times, tho' againſt my Directions, it never failed to occaſion a *Giddineſs*, and a *Head-ach*. And here, by the Way, it may not be amiſs to *obſerve*, that ſeveral Perſons who come to *Bath* for the Re-

covery

covery of their Health, *commit a great Error in drinking too large Quantities of the Water*; which, by over-*heating* them, and occaſioning Head-achs, &c. *retard* the Cure.—But to return to our Patient. He continued to drink the Waters during Six Weeks, and bathed every other Morning. Bathing in the *Morning* agreed much *better* with him than at *Night*: And indeed the Morning appears to be the propereſt Time for bathing, and is the Time appropriated for it in moſt other Countries in Europe. It is unneceſſary to obſerve, that on the Day of bathing, Cold muſt be avoided. Our Patient bathed in one of the *New Baths*, which have been elegantly fitted up ſome Time ago; I ordered that the Water ſhould not exceed *Ninety Degrees* of Fahrenheit's Thermometer:

Thermometer: He remained *One Hour* in each Bath.

As it *is not* the *general Practice* in this Country to continue in a Bath *ſo long*, ſome Perſons might, perhaps, imagine, that the Patient had been *relaxed*; but the very contrary happened, for he always got out of the Bath *ſtronger* and in *better Spirits*. After having bathed and drank the Waters during Six Weeks, he complained of Pains in his Knees and Ancles, which terminated in the *Gout* in his right Foot. This *Fit* laſted a Fortnight; and in Proportion as it went off, the *Sediment* (which did not appear in the Urine for ſeveral Months) made its *Appearance*, and the Patient recovered his uſual State of Health; which he continued to enjoy

until

until the latter End of March 1781, when having dined in Company with many of his Acquaintance, and forgetting that he was far advanced in Years, and an Invalid, he indulged himſelf in eating and drinking improper Things, and caught a ſevere Cold the ſame Evening. In the Courſe of the Night of that Day, the Patient was ſeized with violent Pains in his Bowels, a Head-ach, and a high Fever. And now the *Sediment*, the *fatal Sediment*, got out of its wonted Courſe, and was *ſuppreſſed for ever*; and notwithſtanding that he had all the Aid and Aſſiſtance that *Medicine* could adminiſter, Death ſnatched him from his Relations and Friends, on the *Eleventh* Day of this Diſorder.

In Two Days after his Death, he was *opened*. On opening his *Abdomen*, we obſerved the ſuperior Part of the *Colon* immediately under the Stomach, to be prodigiouſly *inflated*; ſo much, that it had the Appearance of a *ſecond Ventricle*. The Stomach, Liver, Spleen, and Pancreas were found to be in a natural State; the *Kidneys* were uncommonly *ſmall*, particularly the left one. On the *Bladder's* being *opened*, we found about Two Spoonfuls of the ſame Sort of *Humour* (the Sediment), which, at Times, appeared in his Urine: One Side of the *Neck* of the *Bladder* was ſlightly *inflamed*, probably owing to the *Acrimony* of the Humour which we found in it. The *proſtrate Gland* was ſomewhat *ſwoln*.

Upon

Upon opening the *Breaſt*, the Lungs, &c. were found to be in the *natural State*. We now got to the *Head*, which on being *opened*, we obſerved the Veſſels of the *Dura Mater* to be more *turgid* than uſual; we found about Three Spoonfuls of *Water* in the anterior *Ventricles* of the *Brain*; and the *Plexus Choroids* much *larger* than uſual.

From *this Caſe*, we find what Care and Attention ſhould be obſerved in forming the Diagnoſtic, and delivering the Prognoſtic of Diſorders, in *Gouty* Habits of Body. The *Humour* which depoſited in this Patient's *Urine*, had all the Appearances of *Pus*; conſequently, we muſt not be much ſurprized, that at the Commencement of its Appearance, it was

imagined to have proceeded from an *Ulcer in the Bladder*. But Experience proved it to have been a *ſalutary Diſcharge*, that Nature formed to expel the Gouty Humour. This evidently appears to be a fact, as by the foregoing Hiſtory we find, that the Patient always enjoyed good *Health* when the *Sediment came* down; and on its being *ſtopped*, laboured under the *Gout*, or ſome other Diſeaſe.

By the Hiſtory of this *ſingular Malady*, we find, that the ſudden Tumour of the *Teſticle*, the recurring *Swelling* of the Legs, the *Oppreſſion* at Times on the Spirits, and the perpetual *Accumulation* of viſcid Congeſtions in the *Bladder*, (a weakened Part) proceeded all from the ſame Cauſe, viz. A GOUTY DESPUMATION from the Blood;

Blood; whence have ariſen *various Tranſpoſitions* and *Metaſtaſes*, according to the Redundancy or Decreaſe, in Diſcharge of this *excrementitious Matter* with the Urine.

I ſhall conclude with obſerving, that whenever this *ſlimy Matter* had been *ſuppreſſed*, I did not find any Thing which did the Patient ſo much *Service* as the *Bath Water*, in diluting, attenuating, and propelling with the Urine, that *viſcid Humour*. It muſt be remarked, that the Water proved more *beneficial* to him, when previous to its Uſe, he had taken during a Week or Ten Days the Aperient Nervous Pills, N° II. and a Mixture of Tinct. Rhei, and Tinct. Sacr. every Third Morning during their Uſe: By this Method the Patient was duly *prepared*,

and

and the BATH WATER generally brought down the *Sediment*, or occasioned a Fit of the GOUT.

FINIS.